

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 742

By Graves

A RESOLUTION to commend White House Head Coach Jeff Porter for being named Citizen of the Year for 2000 by the *News Examiner* and the White House Area Chamber of Commerce.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Porter is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his endeavors, particularly in his chosen profession of coaching; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Porter graduated from Gallatin High School in 1977 after playing nose guard for the Green Wave in 1975-76 alongside coaching mate, Jim Grantham; he earned an associate's degree at Volunteer State Community College and played baseball during his sophomore year; and

WHEREAS, Coach Porter transferred to Middle Tennessee State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in health and education and, in 1982, received a master's degree in health, physical education, recreation and safety; and

WHEREAS, Coach Porter worked for Coach Calvin Short as a statistician and also as a sanctioned TSSAA referee and umpire while still attending college; and

WHEREAS, while at Richborough Junior High School in Crestview, Florida, in his first coaching position, Coach Porter, who was assistant football coach and head baseball coach for the 1983-84 school year, was voted Coach of the Year in Okaloosa County. However, the pull of Tennessee was too great to resist, and he joined Coach Lassiter's staff at White House as the linebacker/defensive end coach; and

WHEREAS, he also served for five years as head baseball coach of the Blue Devils, was named Sumner County Baseball Coach of the Year in 1987, and appeared in four consecutive regional tournaments. While Coach Porter was assistant football coach, White House had a 31-14 gridiron record and made the post-season playoffs three times, before he assumed the head coaching position in 1987; and

WHEREAS, as head coach, Porter's Blue Devils earned two District 10-AA Championships, their first ever Region 5-3A Championship, two Region 4-3A Championships, and eleven trips to the playoffs in twelve seasons. White House appeared in quarterfinals in 1990, 1993, 1994, and finished 11-2 before falling to Memphis Kingsbury in the quarterfinals in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Coach Porter led the Blue Devils to a perfect 15-0 record in 1997 topped by a Clinic Bowl victory over Memphis Melrose; the following year their record was 12-2, making it to the state semifinals. After two initial losses, the 1999 team scored nine successive wins before falling in the second round of the playoffs; and

WHEREAS, White House High School is in the final stages of a complete upgrade of its athletic facilities while under Coach Porter's tenure. A new fieldhouse, weight room, multipurpose indoor practice facility, improved playing and practice fields, and a visitor's stands press box at the Dewey H. Whitson Memorial Stadium now contribute to the schools athletic excellence; and

WHEREAS, Coach Porter is totally immersed in the football program, including scouting opponents, swapping film, mowing fields, working with the Quarterback Club, upgrading facilities, meeting with the press, compiling statistics, maintenance and repair of equipment,

washing uniforms, sweeping the locker room, attending meetings and seminars and coordinating the football practice schedule. The remaining, and highly important, ten percent of actual coaching has been his special forte; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as Head Coach of White House High School, Coach Porter has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community; he not only inspires his players with a highly competitive spirit, but also instills character attributes in his players, which manifest themselves both on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, Coach Porter's outstanding success in the White House athletic programs is complemented by his life as a public servant and civic leader; his success is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense, and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Coach Porter is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his lovely wife, Elizabeth, and their daughters, Haley and Lacey; and

WHEREAS, the *News Examiner* and the White House Area Chamber of Commerce joined with area citizens in naming Coach Jeff Porter Citizen of the Year for 2000. This legislative body is pleased to recognize his total commitment to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and that he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Coach Jeff Porter for being named Citizen of the Year for 2000 by the *News Examiner* and the White House Area Chamber of Commerce and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

